

NEW CLAIMS

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1. An artificial blood vessel inner layer, made from synthetic material, such as an artificial tunica intima or the like for replacing a section of blood vessel inner layer previously removed from a blood vessel and/or for covering a predetermined length of damaged blood vessel inner layer, comprising diameter arranging means for increasing and/or decreasing the diameter of the artificial blood vessel inner layer,

10 characterized in that said artificial blood vessel layer in turn comprises one or more end sections folded back over the outer surface thereof to lie unjoined therealong, in which fold(s) the diameter arranging means are disposed.

15 2. An artificial blood vessel inner layer according to claim 1 wherein the diameter arranging means comprise a length of memory metal preprogrammed to expand and/or contract at a determined temperature.

20 3. An artificial blood vessel inner layer according to claim 1 wherein the diameter arranging means comprise an expandable gauze.

4. A blood vessel treating assembly, comprising:

a 25 - an artificial blood vessel inner layer according to any of the ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-3~~ and, - introducing means for introducing the artificial blood vessel inner layer into a blood vessel.

5. An assembly according to claim 6, further comprising at least one sheath-like protective cover.

a 30 6. An assembly according to ^{claim 4} ~~claims 4 or 5~~ wherein the introducing means comprise at least one

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catheter-like element associated with the artificial blood vessel inner layer.

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7. An assembly according to any of the ~~claims~~ ^{claim 4}

~~4-6~~ further comprising widening means for widening out of the blood vessel in order to facilitate introduction of the blood vessel treating assembly therein.

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8. An assembly according to any of the ~~claims~~ ^{claim 4}

~~4-7~~ further comprising bunging means for substantially blocking off the passage of blood into the assembly during introduction of the assembly into the blood vessel.

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9. A blood vessel treating assembly according

to any of the ~~claims 4-8~~ ^{Claim 4} further comprising pressure exerting means for exerting pressure onto the artificial blood vessel inner layer, when the latter is in position within the blood vessel.

10. A blood vessel treating assembly according

to claim 9 wherein the blood vessel widening means, the bunging means and the pressure exerting means comprise a cone-shaped element associated with the front of the introducing means.

11. Introducing means for introducing an

artificial blood vessel inner layer according to any of the ~~claims 1-10~~ ^{Claim 1} comprising:

- a catheter-like element,
 - widening means for widening out of the blood vessel in order to facilitate introduction of the artificial blood vessel inner layer therein,
 - bunging means for substantially blocking off the passage of blood during introduction of the artificial blood vessel inner layer,
 - pressure exerting means for exerting pressure onto the artificial blood vessel inner layer, when the latter is in position within the blood vessel,
- characterized in that the widening, bunging and pressure exerting means have substantially the same diameter as the internal diameter of the blood vessel into which the artificial blood vessel is introduceable.

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~~claims 4~~

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